

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 120266

FOLLOWING KINGSTON 1914 SENT ACTION MAY 16; REPEATED TO YOU
QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 1914

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ECON, JM
SUBJECT: REFLECTION ON THE KINGSTON COMMONWEALTH MEETING

DEPT PASS INFO AS APPROPRIATE

REF: A. KINGSTON 1741; B. KINGSTON 1791

1. KINGSTON IS AWASH IN A FLOOD OF SELF-CONGRATULATION.
PM MANLEY'S RHETORIC ABOUT THE "CONCORD OF KINGSTON" IS
OVERBLOWN, YET WHEN ONE DISCOUNTS THE POLITICAL POSTURING
AND STRIPS AWAY THE BALLYHOO, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE
COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT (CHG) CONFERENCE WAS A
NOTABLE SUCCESS FOR PRIME MINISTER MANLEY AND HIS GOVERNMENT.
THE GOJ RECOGNIZED THE CHG AS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY AND FORUM
THROUGH WHICH IT COULD PROJECT ITS THINKING FOR A NEW INTER-
NATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (NIEO). TECHNICAL PREPARATIONS FOR
THE MEETING WERE METICULOUS AND PAID OFF IN RESULTS THAT
SURPRISED THE CYNICS. BASED ON THE NUMBER OF HEADS OF GOVERN-
MENT THAT ATTENDED, THE EXTENSIVE PRE-CONFERENCE TRAVEL OF
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THE PERIPATETIC DUDLEY THOMPSON APPEARED WELL JUSTIFIED.

2. ESSENTIALLY THERE WERE ONLY TWO MAJOR ISSUES TO BE
ADDRESSED AT THE MEETING: THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
ORDER, AND SOUTHERN AFRICA. WHILE SINCERELY COMMITTED

ON THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES, MANLEY DID NOT WANT THEM TO PREOCCUPY THE MEETING AND OBSCURE DISCUSSION OF THE NIEO. HE SUCCEEDED IN HIS OBJECTIVE IN LARGE MEASURE BY INVITING BISHOP MUZOREWA AND OTHER AFRICAN NATIONALISTS TO THE MEETING. WITH THE PRINCIPAL AFRICAN LIBERATION LEADERS PRESENT TO ARGUE THEIR CASE IN PERSON OUTSIDE THE FORMAL SESSIONS, OTHER THIRD WORLD LEADERS NO LONGER FELT COMPELLED TO COMMENT IN EXTENSIO IN THE FORMAL SESSIONS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, THUS GIVING MORE TIME FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE NIEO.

3. GHG MEETINGS HISTORICALLY ARE NOTED FOR BEING TALKFESTS AND NOT FOR DECISIONS, YET AS CHAIRMAN OF THE KINGSTON MEETING MANLEY WAS ABLE TO ENGINEER TWO MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN SUPPORT OF HIS CONCEPT OF NIEO. FIRST, IN THE COM-MUNIQUE OR DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES (REF A) HE WAS ABLE TO PERSUADE THE U.K. TO DROP ITS INSISTENCE ON "GROWTH" AS A PREREQUISITE TO THE TRANSFER OF WEALTH FROM THE DC'S TO LDC'S. SECOND, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, AN ONGOING MECHANISM, THE GROUP OF EXPERTS, WAS CREATED TO DRAW UP A COMPREHENSIVE AND INTERRELATED PROGRAM OF PRACTICAL MEASURES DIRECTED AT CLOSING THE GAP BETWEEN THE RICH AND THE POOR COUNTRIES (REF B). A STRONG JAMAICAN/ CARIBBEAN INFLUENCE ON THE WORK OF THE GROUP IS ASSURED BY:

A) THE APPOINTMENT OF CARICOM SEC GEN ALISTER MCINTYRE AS ITS CHAIRMAN;
B) IT WILL BE WORKING UNDER THE AEGIS OF NEW COMMONWEALTH SEC GEN SONNY RAMPHAL; AND
C) IT IS CHARGED WITH REPORTING TO THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCE MINISTER MEETING IN GEORGETOWN IN AUGUST.

4. IN THE COMMONWEALTH EXPERT GROUP MR. MANLEY NOW HAS A LARGER STAGE FROM WHICH TO PROJECT HIS NIEO THINKING. WHEN HE ADDRESSES THE UNGA 7SS, SEPTEMBER 3, IT WILL BE MORE AS THE RAPPORTEUR OF COMMONWEALTH INITIATIVES THAN CONFIDENTIAL

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AS JAMAICAN P.M. ALTHOUGH COMPROMISES BETWEEN COMMONWEALTH DC AND LCD POSITIONS OBVIOUSLY WILL HAVE TO OCCUR IF ANY TYPE OF MEANINGFUL EXPERT GROUP REPORT IS TO EMERGE, THE LDC'S WILL BE DEALING WITH A GENERALLY SYMPATHETIC GROUP OF DC'S SUCH AS AUSTRALIA, CANADA AND NEW ZEALAND, WHO THEMSELVES ARE HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON EXPORTS OF RAW MATERIALS AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS FOR THEIR NATIONAL LIVELIHOOD. GERARD UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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